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EUROPE

1. ITALY: Kremlin "disappointed" by Communist weakness--
US Embassy Rome has received information [redacted]

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[redacted] that Moscow was deeply disappointed over the weakness of the anti-Eisenhower manifestations and wants the Italian and French Communist parties to make a show of strength this Spring, using German rearmament as a popular issue, tied in with protests against the rising cost of living and unemployment. The Embassy believes, in the light of this information, that the "disintegration" of the Italian Communist Party, of which the Magnani affair is symptomatic, is probably causing grave concern to the Kremlin and that a thorough shakedown within the Party is in the offing. The Embassy offers as further confirmation of the gravity with which the Kremlin regards the Magnani affair the fact that Secchia, the third most important man in the Italian Communist Party, has departed for Moscow for the second time within a month.

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2. POLAND: Concern over "German aggression"--According to US Embassy Warsaw, Secretary General Wierblowski of the Polish Foreign Office told the Swedish Minister that Poland is gravely concerned over the menace of neo-Hitlerite aggression in Germany. Wierblowski declared that Poland could not view with equanimity the revival of dictatorial power which had nearly exterminated the Polish nation and people. The Swedish Minister replied that his government was also alert to the dangers of new aggression but that the Swedes feared hostilities from other quarters; he said that the "neo-Hitlerite menace" to which Wierblowski referred was only a possibility but that the Stalin dictatorship was an actual threat to European peace. Wierblowski reportedly ended the interview abruptly with the comment, "we are not here to discuss Stalin or the Soviet dictatorship."

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State Dept. review completed

- 1 -

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NEAR EAST-AFRICA

3. FRENCH MOROCCO: Sultan-Juin "battle" unresolved--
US Consul McBride in Rabat has been informed by a high French official that General Juin is "unalterably" opposed to the idea of a call on the Sultan of Morocco by Secretary of Air Finletter in connection with the US air base program. The French official declared that France is responsible for the defense of Morocco, that the Sultan is informed of developments in this field by courtesy, and that all matters concerning Morocco's dealings with other countries should be handled by Juin. According to this official, the present moment would be especially unsuitable for such a call and would "stiffen" the Sultan further. McBride comments that the Sultan-Juin "battle" remains unresolved, with even the French admitting the adverse effects of it. He adds that tanks and other armored vehicles were noted in Rabat for the first time on 12 February.



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